

*Oral Questions*

When there is a stated health hazard in this country the minister and the health ministry act. On this issue consistently we have asked the minister to withdraw or to stop the use of the Meme.

If the minister is not willing to stop the Meme, is he willing at least to issue information to those who might get the Meme implant that it could possibly be dangerous? If he is concerned about all implants then all implants should have the warning.

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, of course I reject the very unfair assertion that was made in the premise of the hon. member's question.

The key issue is this: just because the hon. member makes allegations does not make those allegations correct. The obligation of the Department of National Health and Welfare is to weigh scientific fact. If the hon. member has any scientific facts as opposed to unsubstantiated allegations, let her bring them forward.

I have offered to all members of this House a full briefing by the scientists from health and welfare. I renew that offer to her, and I also invite her again to tender any information she has whatsoever that would suggest there is a lack of safety.

Second, she asks whether or not we are prepared to give information to Canadian women considering breast implants about the safety and effects of breast implants. Yes, we do that today by helping to finance a brochure which gives Canadian women that information.

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[Translation]

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Environment.

The Minister of the Environment told us on Friday that the environmental assessments of all government projects since June 1990 must be filed with the environment committee. This is a good initiative, somewhat surprising though it may be because as a member of that committee this the first time I hear anything about it.

Here is my question, Mr. Speaker. Can the committee chairman confirm that the committee was told about it and when? In addition, can he tell us whether he has received the funds required to do that job?

• (1440)

[English]

**Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, to respond briefly, I am aware of the commitment because it was very clearly stated in the Green Plan, as confirmed by the minister the other day. When those preparations are completed, I look forward to receiving these studies. Obviously, if the committee is to do its work effectively in reviewing these important environmental assessments, we may need more assistance because I think this is a very important step in making sure that all of the Green Plan priorities are adhered to.

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, it is evident from the reply of the chairman of the committee that he found out about that responsibility at the same time as the rest of us did and that was on Friday when the minister announced it in the House.

My question, therefore, given the chairman's somewhat puzzlement, is for the Acting Prime Minister. Last Wednesday, the Minister for International Trade stated that it would be the height of nonsense to do an environmental assessment of the Mexican free trade agreement. On Friday, the Minister of the Environment flatly contradicted him, saying that it would be done. We have just heard the chairman of the environment committee respond in some wonderment at this infighting among dinosaurs.

My question for the Acting Prime Minister is this. In all of this confusion, who is speaking for the government, the Minister of the Environment or the Minister for International Trade?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, if my hon. colleague opposite had cared to listen to the comments I made last June it was very clear. This is not something I announced in the House last week. This is something that was made very public last June.

**Mr. Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** How come the committee didn't know about it?

**Mr. de Cotret:** It was made very public—